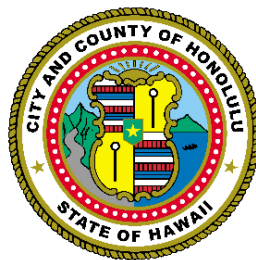




Koko Crater
Botanical Garden



MO'OLELO PĀKA

Parks and Recreation Newsletter *August 2021*

A wide variety of rare and endangered dryland plants await visitors to this desert-like garden, with hundreds of species occupying 60 acres of the 200-acre volcanic

crater! Garden highlights include: the colorfully fragrant Plumeria grove; other-worldly palms, cacti, succulents, African, and Hawaiian plants; and a 2-mile loop trail. Open from dawn until dusk, we recommend you bring plenty of water and comfortable shoes as there is no water access. Mahalo to our maintenance crews [for recently resurfacing the parking lot.](#)

“We add quality to life!”



More Local Access to Hanauma Bay

As part of a two-week pilot program, local residents were allowed entry into the popular nature preserve without a reservation. [We are evaluating the pilot program](#), but are still allowing the privilege for the first hour of operation, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Kailua Skate Park Improvements

Thanks to a nearly \$130,000 donation from the Association of Skateboarders in Hawai'i, this skate park [is seeing some serious upgrades with five new and several replacements obstacles!](#) The work involved local skaters pitching-in to realize this community-led improvement project.

Nā Hula Festival Continues Tradition

Hawai'i's longest running, annual, non-competitive hula event kept the streak alive [by hosting its 80th festival virtually.](#) Video performances, featuring dancers from keiki to kūpuna, were posted every week including historic routines from 2014.

Hawaiian History Recognized

Once the site of a significant peace accord, Nāoneala'a a Kāne'ohe (formerly Kāne'ohe Beach Park) [now boasts a storyboard conveying the history](#) of this small but significant park location to visitors and future generations.

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Kākou for Parks Updates:

This unparalleled program continues to revitalize our aging and most popular facilities island-wide, resulting in 182 different parks improved. See more at bit.ly/KakouforParks



Date Street Mini Park

132

New & Refurbished Play Apparatus



Kaluapuhi Neighborhood Park

131

Renovated Comfort Stations



Millilani District Park

466

Resurfaced Play Courts



Dedicated Courts at Mānana Neighborhood Park

Mahalo to our outstanding employee!



Gordon Gaison

Described as a seasoned, marathon worker, Gordon exhibits a steady, reliable, and positive attitude day in and day out. A Senior Groundskeeper in Kailua, Gordon's delightful countenance, wisdom, and strong work ethic serve as an excellent example for the newer staff. You can often find Gordon working past his shift without speaking negatively of his consistent work load. His deep knowledge of the community is readily available to anyone who asks, and he is always eager to improve our parks and solve the variety of issues facing his facilities. He truly makes our parks shine and is considered by many to be an unspoken DPR hero. Mahalo Gordon!

Pickleball Courts Popping Up All Over!

As part of our Kākou for Parks program we are giving our outdoor play courts new life and function as we re-purpose them to accommodate the fastest growing sport in the country! Currently we have added 144 courts at 81 parks, even adding some dedicated courts at select parks. Check out the location of all of our pickleball courts by visiting:

bit.ly/OahuPickleball